

GAVE TOO MUCH POWER,

Said Mr. Beard, Who Objected to Bill for Pilot Commissioners.

During the afternoon session of the Senate, Mr. Harris (Mr. West in the chair) got up the bill relating to the powers and duties of Pilot Commissioners, and offered a substitute that would give the commissioners power to make rules for the government of pilots.

This drew the fire of Mr. Beard, and he delivered his remarks in a spirited manner, calling attention to the unlimited power that would be given.

"This blanket clause is an undemocratic provision," cried Senator Beard, "and I ask if the Senate has power to invest such power in the commission—to assign legislative duties to any board. This commission could do anything not prohibited by law."

"I never heard of such a piece of autocracy as is proposed by this bill," said Senator Beard, who was then asked by Senator Harris if the Railroad Commission did not have such power.

Senator Beard replied that up to the time the Constitution was amended the commission had no judicial power.

The eloquence of Senator Beard was wasted, however, for the substitute bill was adopted.

He then gave notice that he would ask tomorrow for a reconsideration of the vote.

INSURANCE BILL TO-DAY AT 11 O'CLOCK.

Senator Trammell asked that his bill providing for State Life Insurance be made a special order for this afternoon at 4:30 o'clock, but Senator Harris suggested 11 a. m. as a better hour, saying that it was a matter that would take some time for consideration, so the Senate agreed to the latter hour.

Opinion as to the merits of this bill is said to be about evenly divided, and much debate over the measure is probable.

IMMIGRATION BILL GOES OVER.

Mr. Knight of Citrus yesterday asked consent of the House, which was granted, that his immigration bill should be set for special order Thursday morning of next week. He explained that the measure was one of great importance to the State, and he wanted the members to become more familiar with the measure before voting on it.

WILL INSPECT SITES FOR ANNEX.

Action on the bills for providing an annex to the Capitol building and for the enlarging of the building was continued until Monday.

Some preference was shown toward the building of an annex, providing a convenient site could be secured, and Senators Sams and Hudson were appointed a committee to look into that matter and report next Monday morning.



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BY THE WAY.

On account of something—the neat perhaps—those pleasant little receptions that used to be given nightly by Peter O. have been abandoned, and in rocking chair he sits of evenings in the lobby—how appropriate the word. No hammock built for two, no little birch canoe; no cozy corner for Peter, a rocking chair will do.

During a discussion about holding two sessions a day of the Senate, in which Mr. Trammell spoke of the many bills pending and the necessity of doing more work, Mr. Buckman said that if the order of business was followed much more would be accomplished. "Stick to the Calendar," said he. About ten minutes later he was an offender by asking that the rules be waived to take up a bill out of its order.

A batch of petitions favoring pending liquor legislation was handed in yesterday morning by Senator Baker. The way temperance people are keeping eyes on matters of this kind this session and the several bills that have been introduced on the subject will cause some lively thinking for those members who are opposed and yet want to keep records in good standing.

Peter Knight failed to visit the Senate yesterday, but everything seemed to run smoothly.

A last stand for the preservation of Hillsborough is indicated by the delegations now here from Tampa for the purpose of keeping Pinellas county off the map, but the friends of the division seem strong in confidence and doubt Peter Knight's ability "to make them look like thirty cents."

WILLIS PIPES IN THE HOUSE.

Pleasing Performance on Scotland's Favorite Instrument.

The House yesterday heard the second of a series of concerts which will be given at intervals during the session on wind instruments.

Last week the first was given by Professor Faulkner, the piccolo virtuoso. Yesterday there was a slight variance, but one which proved exceedingly refreshing and delightful, when Professor Willis of Levy gave a finished rendition on the bag-pipe.

As fickle in its favors as a school girl, the House voted Professor Willis the most accomplished performer yet, and he was showered with evidences of the appreciation in which his talents are held.

The joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution, to provide for the distribution of the public school funds to the negroes on a basis of the taxes paid by the negroes, was under consideration.

Mr. Malone spoke against the resolution. He said that the House had decided Wednesday that the Fourteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution should stand, and the amendment proposed by the Faulkner resolution would be a nullity, because it was in direct opposition to the provisions of the Fourteenth Amendment. The principles of that part of the organic law would be antagonized, and the Florida Legislature would be foolish, he said, to place itself on record as favoring any such measure.

Mr. Williams asked if there was anything in the Federal Constitution to compel a State to maintain a system of public schools.

"There is not," said Mr. Malone, "but if the State pretends to maintain a system of public schools the State can not discriminate one class of its citizens against another."

Mr. Faulkner announced that he was plainly "up against it."

"I can't get up anything in this House," he said, "but what some sharp representative of the legal fraternity jumps on it. But I am willing to give my friend from Monroe (Malone) credit for being worthy of a better cause than this in which he is now engaged, defending the nigger. I believe a large majority of this House is in favor of this amendment. I am no lawyer, and I can't appeal on technicalities, but I can appeal to the common sense of the members. What Mr. Malone has said doesn't touch this subject at all. He might as well have quoted something from the blue back speller, or told a story of Old Dog Tray, for he hasn't touched the subject under discussion."

Mr. Faulkner spoke at considerable length, his shrill falsetto carrying such original wit that the members were kept in a continuous good humor, as is always the case when Faulkner speaks.

But if they were amused while Faulkner spoke, they were convulsed when Willis of Levy arose and with great sangfroid began a brazenly impudent mimicry of the Taylor County member's manner and tone. Following the rule of the caricaturist to exaggerate the striking lines, Willis pitched his voice higher and to a more strident key. Faulkner's notes were those of the piccolo; Willis tuned his to the bag-pipe.

"Yes," he said in imitation, "this subject is a fine one to get elected to the Legislature on. It makes a good subject for a speech from a live oak stump or a bacon box at one of the country precincts, when you can get up and say, 'If you will elect me to the Legislature I will get it fixed so that the negro will pay for his own schooling. Just send me up there and see what I will do.'"

The Representative from Levy continued his impersonation of his Taylor County colleague for some minutes, and the House roared in response.

The debate was continued in the afternoon. When the vote was taken there were 28 for the resolution and 25 against it. Though a majority voted for the measure it did not pass because it failed to receive the required vote of three-fifths.

COULD NOT GET RURAL SCHOOLS IN BILL.

Attempt to amend Senate Bill No. 100, by Mr. West, "to provide for State aid for public schools in this State, and to prescribe conditions and to make appropriations therefor," was a matter of prolonged debate yesterday.

Senator Trammell tried to change the scope of the bill in order that rural schools not now getting aid would be helped, but his argument failed and his amendment was lost on a tie vote. There was a majority of one, but Senator Broome changed his mind before the vote was announced, thus making the result 13 to 13.

SENATOR ADAMS SAID FIVE DOLLARS

For Members of School Boards, and the Amendment Was Joyously Passed.

Members of the County School Boards got their prize package yesterday.

After some discussion whether the present rate of pay for attendance at meetings—\$2.00—should obtain or be increased to \$3.00 or \$4.00. Senator Broome took the floor in support of an increase, which he ably defended.

"When we come down to the small officeholders, I find there is no disposition to increase such salaries, but there is no question where big salaries are concerned. I want to see how you will vote for the bill to increase the salaries of Cabinet officers. Some of you who will vote no now will vote aye then."

Senator Crews spoke of the talent that had been declared necessary in the office of State Attorney, and said that it was fully as important to have as capable men on County School Boards. The amount they receive now, in some instances, did not pay them for the expenses of attending meetings.

Senator Adams then poured oil on the troubled waters in the form of an amendment, making the pay \$5.00 for each meeting, and it was adopted with enthusiasm, though here and there a "no" broke the harmony.

Then the motion to indefinitely postpone the bill was voted down, and those who believed that the School Board was an important factor of government were happy.

SPEAKER MATTHEWS ILL.

Mr. Eugene Matthews, Speaker of the House of Representatives, left the chair yesterday morning and did not return during the day. He had not been well for several days, and is fearful that he is threatened with a serious attack. Speaker Knowles, pro tempore, presided part of the day, and Representative Watson and Representative Wilson of Hernando were in the chair for a part of the time.

LOST.

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